

## **NMCB ONE WELCOMES 3M TO SEABEE LIFE**

**BY CMC (SCW) Eugene Cowhick, NMCB ONE 3M Coordinator**

*"The First and The Finest"* hosted the first installation and implementation of the Navy Maintenance and Material Management (3-M) system on a deployment site recently. A host of eight visitors from both ends of the U.S. and Japan visited Camp Covington in Guam to install and assist with the initial implementation of the 3M System. CMC (SCW) Eugene Cowhick, the first Command 3-M System Coordinator in a Seabee Battalion, was anxious to get this program rolling for it had been a long 10-month wait. Camp Covington is the first deployment site to have the 3-M System installed for implementation. The installation went extremely well. After 3 days of installing 3M programs in the network servers, the team provided some overview and one-on-one over the shoulder training. On January 5, 2004, the system will be turned on and 3M will become reality.

The challenges have been many, and will continue throughout the deployment. The first of these challenges began in homeport, developing the initial training and qualification process for the 680 Seabee warriors that had never even heard of 3-M. The training plan was put in place for Guam and proved to be very successful, training and qualifying personnel in only three days. The next challenge was the global tasking. As a result of the Iraqi war, NMCB ONE is scattered across nine countries on five continents. Much of the training and qualifications for those detachments will be provided, in a very limited amount of time, before they come to Guam or continue on to other sites. ET1 Quentin Stearns is providing training, and the qualifications in Rota, Spain. CMC Cowhick and MR1 John Griffin are providing training and qualifications, as well as the implementation of the system in Camp Covington. ET2 Gregory Cook has also been a huge asset, developing the hands-on training, utilizing communication gear, to meet the Personnel Qualification Standards (PQS) task elements.

This system has not been fully successful for scheduling and documenting maintenance for construction equipment (CESE) as of yet, which brings about another challenge. The Navy 3M System did not contain CESE until two years ago. All maintenance requirements and configuration data were literally created from scratch. There will certainly be some bumps in the road. There is no doubt that *"The First and The Finest"* of NMCB ONE will overcome these challenges and set the standard for the 3M program.